EU requirements for **fresh** Fruit and Vegetables

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Import procedures

- Single Administrative Document (SAD) presented to customs authorities by the importer or his representative (regulation 2454/93)
- May be subject to the presentation of an import certificate for surveillance measures / quotas (apples, bananas, garlic)
- Payment of tariff duties (including VAT)
EU Requirements

Health control *(food law, hygiene, microbiological criteria, contaminants, pesticides)*

Plant health control *(harmful organisms)*

Marketing standards

Other requirements
General Food Law

General Food Law

- Compliance or equivalence
- Traceability (regulation do not have an extra-territorial effect outside EU, the requirements extend from the importer to the retailer, but food business’s contractual arrangements exist)
- Responsibility of the Food Business Operator; in case of import = importer

1. Health control
Food Hygiene

Food Hygiene

Requirements to be respected by food business operators in third countries

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements
Requirements for food business operators

- General obligation on the operator to **monitor** the food safety of products;
- **General hygiene** provisions for primary production growing, harvesting, 1\textsuperscript{st} transport
- **Detailed requirements** after primary production;

1. Health control
Requirements for food business operators

- Registration of food businesses (for food of plant origin, usually sufficient that exporting establishments in third countries are known and accepted as suppliers by importers into the Community)

- General implementation of procedures based on the HACCP principles, after primary production;

1. Health control
Microbiological criteria

Microbiological criteria

- Regular testing against the criterion is **not useful** in normal circumstances for fresh, uncut and unprocessed vegetables and fruits, excluding sprouted seeds,
- *Escherichia.Coli* and *Salmonella* for pre-cut fruit and vegetables (*ready-to eat*) and unpasteurised fruit and vegetable juices
- *Salmonella* for sprouted seeds
Contaminants

Commission Regulation (EC) No 466/2001 of 8 March 2001 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs + amendments

1. Health control
Contaminants

- nitrate in spinach and lettuce
- Aflatoxins in groundnuts, nuts, dried fruit, some species of spices
- Ochratoxin A in dried vine fruit
- Patulin in fruit juice, apple product
- Lead in fruit and vegetables, fruit juice
- Cadmium in fruit and vegetables
- Tin in canned food

1. Health control
Pesticides residues

Pesticides residues

Lists of **EU MRL** sorted by pesticide, crop group or commodity, available on

http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/index_en.htm
Pesticides residues

Import tolerances

“a MRL based on a Codex MRL or on a GAP implemented in a third country... where (a) use not authorised in EC, or (b) existing MRL not sufficient”

Questions / Answers

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO)

G/SPS/GEN/557

29 March 2005
Plant Health

Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community (OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p. 1–112)
Import into EU

ANNEX III, Prohibitions: includes:

- plants of Vitis L., Citrus L., Malus (apple), Pyrus (pear), other than fruits,

no prohibitions in annex III on Fruits or Vegetables
Import into EU

ANNEX V B

Lists the products which are potential carriers of harmful organisms of relevance for the EU and subject to systematic inspections when originating in territories outside the EU.
Import into EU
systematic inspection for certain FRUITS

Import into EU

systematic inspection for certain leafy VEGETABLES

*Apium graveolens* L. (celery)
*Ocimum* L. (e.g. sweet basil)
Import into EU

Phytosanitary inspection for those produces listed in annex V, part B

Customs cleared if:

- documentary checks (phytosanitary certificate)
- Identity checks (products match with doc)
- free of harmful organismes (annex I, part A and annex II part A)
- Special requirements satisfied (annex IV part A)
Import into EU

**Special requirements**: ANNEX IV, PART A, section I includes:

*Citrus* L. (*citrus*), *Fortunella* Swingle (*kumquat*), *Poncirus* Raf., and their hybrids,

shall be free from pedoncules and leaves,
the packaging shall bear an appropriate origin mark
official statement “free from...”, “originate in area known to be free from...”,

2. Plant health control
Marketing standards

(Quality)
EU regulations laying down the marketing standards

- DEFINITION OF PRODUCE
- PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY
  - Minimum quality requirements
  - Minimum maturity requirements
  - Classification (‘Extra’ class, Class I, Class II)
- PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING
- PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES
  - Quality tolerances
  - Size tolerances

3. Marketing standards
EU regulations laying down the marketing standards

- PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION
  - Uniformity
  - Packaging
  - Presentation

- PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING
  - Identification
  - Nature of produce
  - Origin of produce (Country)
  - Commercial specifications
EU and International standards

- Main marketed fresh F&V (40) are covered by EU regulations (identical to UNECE standards),
- UNECE standards: 51 fresh and 19 dry/dried F&V.
- OECD scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables: interpretative “brochures” of UNECE quality standards
- TBT agreement: where technical regulations are required, Members shall use of “relevant international standards”
Checks on conformity

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1148/2001 of 12 June 2001 on checks on conformity to the marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and vegetables (OJ L 156, 13.6.2001, p.9)
THIRD COUNTRIES RECOGNISED:
Switzerland, Morocco, South Africa, Israel, India, New-Zealand, Kenya, Senegal, Turkey
Where appropriate requirements concerning

- the use of food additives
- materials and articles in contact with food
- food irradiation
- novel foods
- radioactivity
- quick frozen foodstuffs
- genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- labelling
- organic products

4. other requirements
PRIVATE STANDARDS

4. other requirements
Thank you